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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a working group to formulate recommendations for standardizing the measurements of loneliness and isolation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FLOOD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a working group to formulate recommendations for standardizing the measurements of loneliness and isolation, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Improving Measure-
5 ments for Loneliness and Isolation Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. WORKING GROUP ON UNIFYING LONELINESS RE-**
2 **SEARCH.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) The term “isolation” means the objective
5 lack of social relationships or limited social contact
6 with others.

7 (2) The term “loneliness” means a subjective
8 feeling of being isolated.

9 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and
10 Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-
11 retary”) shall establish a national working group, to be
12 known as the Working Group on Unifying Loneliness Re-
13 search (in this section referred to as the “Working
14 Group”), to formulate recommendations for standardizing
15 the measurements of loneliness and isolation.

16 (c) GOALS.—The goals of the recommendations
17 under subsection (b) shall be the following:

18 (1) Collaboration, cooperation, and consultation
19 among Federal departments and agencies with re-
20 spect to developing standardized measurements of
21 loneliness and isolation for the purposes of—

22 (A) having standardized measurements for
23 use in public and private research, including
24 surveys across varying populations, with the
25 ability to capture the level of granularity needed
26 to guide strategic decisionmaking, planning,

1 and evaluation of strategies to combat loneli-
2 ness and isolation; and

3 (B) providing reliable, consistent measure-
4 ment tools for use across fields and industries
5 in health care.

6 (2) Collaboration, cooperation, and consultation
7 among Federal departments and agencies with re-
8 spect to developing standardized definitions of loneli-
9 ness, isolation, and relevant terms associated with
10 loneliness and isolation for the purposes of edu-
11 cation, awareness, and understanding of the terms
12 for the general public.

13 (3) Assessment of the alignment of previous
14 methods of measuring loneliness and isolation in the
15 public and private sectors.

16 (d) COMPOSITION.—The Working Group shall be
17 composed of—

18 (1) senior-level representatives of—

19 (A) the Department of Health and Human
20 Services;

21 (B) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
22 Services;

23 (C) the Centers for Disease Control and
24 Prevention;

1 (D) the Administration for Community
2 Living;

3 (E) the National Institutes of Health;

4 (F) the Substance Abuse and Mental
5 Health Services Administration;

6 (G) the Health Resources and Services Ad-
7 ministration;

8 (H) the Agency for Healthcare Research
9 and Quality; and

10 (I) other agencies, groups, subject matter
11 experts, or researchers the Secretary deems
12 beneficial to be represented in the Working
13 Group consistent with the goals specified in
14 subsection (c);

15 (2) 1 representative of each of the three States
16 with the highest numbers of practitioners needed to
17 remove the designations of all mental health care
18 health professional shortage areas in the respective
19 State (as reflected in the report of the Health Re-
20 sources and Services Administration titled “Des-
21 ignated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statis-
22 tics” (June 30, 2023), with each such representative
23 designated by the Governor of the respective State;
24 and

1 (3) 1 representative of the each of the three
2 States with the lowest numbers of practitioners
3 needed to remove such designations, with each such
4 representative designated by the Governor of the re-
5 spective State.

6 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Working
9 Group shall—

10 (A) submit to the committees listed in
11 paragraph (3) a report describing the work and
12 recommendations of the Working Group; and

13 (B) make such report publicly available on
14 the internet.

15 (2) MEETINGS.—The Working Group shall
16 meet not less than 3 times in the course of devel-
17 oping its report.

18 (3) COMMITTEES.—The committees referred to
19 in paragraph (1)(A) are the following:

20 (A) The Committee on Education and the
21 Workforce of the House of Representatives.

22 (B) The Committee on Energy and Com-
23 merce of the House of Representatives.

24 (C) The Committee on Ways and Means of
25 the House of Representatives.

1 (D) The Committee on Finance of the Sen-
2 ate.

3 (E) The Committee on Health, Education,
4 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

5 (f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “State”
6 means the 50 States.

7 (g) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective
8 at the end of calendar year 2026.